**Reuben James**

**Intro E**

 **E**

**Reuben James**

 **B E**

**In my song you'll live again**

 **A E**

**And the phrases that I rhyme**

 **B E**

**Are just footsteps outta time**

 **A E B E**

**From a time when I knew you, Reuben James**

 **E**

**Reuben James,**

 **B E**

**All the folks around Madison County cussed your name**

 **A E**

**Just a no account share-cropper coloured man**

 **B E**

**Who'd steal anything he can**

 **A E B E**

**And everybody laid the blame on Reuben James**

**Chorus**

 **A**

**Reuben James**

 **E**

**You still walk the fertile fields of my mind**

 **A**

**The faded shirt, the weathered brow**

 **E**

**The calloused hands upon the plough**

 **D A E**

**Loved you then and I love you now, Reuben James**

 **E**

**Flora Graves,**

 **B E**

**The gossip of Madison County died with child**

 **A E**

**And although your skin was black**

 **B E**

**You were the one who didn't turn your back**

 **A E B E**

**On a hungry white child with no name, Reuben James**

 **E**

**Reuben James,**

 **B E**

**With your mind on my soul and a bible in your right hand**

 **A E**

**And you said turn the other cheek**

 **B E**

**There's a better world waitin' for the meek**

 **A E B E**

**In my mind these words remain from Reuben James**

**Repeat chorus**

 **A**

**Reuben James**

 **E**

**You still walk the fertile fields of my mind**

 **A**

**The faded shirt, the weathered brow**

 **E**

**The calloused hands upon the plough**

 **D A E**

**Loved you then and I love you now, Reuben James**

**Third verse key change F**

**(if you can swing it, otherwise keep in key of E)**

 **F**

**Reuben James,**

 **C F**

**One dark cloudy day they brought you from the field**

 **Bb F**

**And to your lonely pine box came**

 **C F**

**Just a preacher me and the rain**

 **Bb F C F**

**To sing one last refrain for Reuben James**

**Chorus x 2**

 **Bb**

**Reuben James**

 **F**

**You still walk the fertile fields of my mind**

 **Bb**

**The faded shirt, the weathered brow**

 **F**

**The calloused hands upon the plough**

 **Eb Ab F**

**Loved you then and I love you now, Reuben James**